

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Claims 15 and 16 have been added. No new matter is introduced herein. Claims 1-16 are pending.

Applicants appreciate the courtesy extended to their representatives by Examiner Hanley and Supervisor Ton during the telephone interview of January 25, 2010. During the course of the interview, differences between Shinji et al. (JP 11-213891), Oono (JP 3-75596), Kazuya et al. (JP 07-162180) and Applicants' claim 1 were discussed. No agreement was reached. The Examiner suggested clarifying the relative position of the air blowing means above the plasma display panel. Applicants' representative suggested amending claim 1 to recite that the air blowing means is within the perimeter of the plasma display panel. The Examiner suggested amending claim 1 to include that a vector normal to the front-face surface of the plasma display panel intersects the air blowing means, and that this amendment appears to overcome the cited art.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to recite that at least a portion of the air blowing means is disposed within an area defined by the perimeter of the plasma display panel. No new matter is introduced herein. Support for the amendment can be found, for example, at Figs. 1 and 2 of the subject specification.

Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinji et al. (JP 11-213891) in view of Oono (JP 3-75596) and Kazuya et al. (JP 07-162180). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are patentable over the cited art for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1, as amended, includes features neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art, namely:

... positioning the air blowing means above a front-face surface of the plasma display panel to direct air to the front-face surface in a direction away from parallel relative to the front-face surface ...

... at least a portion of the air blowing means is disposed within an area defined by the perimeter of the plasma display panel.
(Emphasis Added)

Claim 6 includes a similar recitation.

Shinji et al. disclose, in Fig. 2, an aging room 2 for aging panels that is applied to tray 11 (paragraph [0015] of the machine translation). At paragraph [0023], Shinji et al. disclose including a fan in aging room 2 for cooling aging room 2 during the aging period. At paragraph [0028], Shinji et al. disclose that tray 11 is equipped with a fan for cooling circuit board 18.

As acknowledged by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action, Shinji et al. do not disclose or suggest: 1) positioning air blowing means above a front-face surface of the plasma display panel to direct air to the front-face surface in a direction away from parallel relative to the front-face surface and 2) cooling the plasma display panel during the aging while changing at least one of the direction or amount of air blown from the air blowing means, as required by claim 1. Thus, Shinji et al. cannot further teach that at least a portion of the air blowing means is disposed within an area defined by the perimeter of the plasma display panel, as required by claim 1. Accordingly, Shinji et al. do not include all of the features of claim 1.

Oono discloses, in Figs. 1 and 2, a cooling structure of a circuit board including fan 6 positioned below the edge of circuit board 3 and air flow guide 2 for “variably controlling” the blown density of air provided to circuit board 3 (Claims and Description of Numerals and Signs of Main Parts).

Oono, however, does not disclose or suggest positioning the air blowing means above a front-face surface of the plasma display panel to direct air to the front-face surface in a direction away from parallel relative to the front-face surface, where at least a portion of the air blowing means is disposed within an area defined by the perimeter of the plasma display panel, as required by claim 1 (emphasis added). Instead, Oono discloses that fan 6 is positioned below circuit board 3 and air flow guide 2, for redirecting the blown density of air provided to circuit board 3 (Figs. 1 and 2). Because fan 6 is positioned below circuit board 3, the air is directed parallel to the surface of the circuit board (i.e., to. an edge of circuit board 3, not to a front-face surface). Accordingly, Oono cannot teach that a portion of the air blowing means is disposed within an area defined by the perimeter of the plasma display panel, as required by claim 1.

Furthermore, Oono does not disclose or suggest changing, during the aging, at least one of the direction or amount of air blown from the air blowing means with time, as required by claim 1. Instead, Oono discloses that the direction of the air flow guide 2 is fixed, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. Thus, Oono does not make up for the deficiencies of Shinji et al. with respect to claim 1.

Kazuya et al. disclose, in Figs. 1-3, a cooling structure for uniformly cooling a plurality of printed boards 15 that are stored in parallel with each other in bin 11. The cooling structure includes fan device 50 mounted below the edges of printed boards 15. Fan device 50 includes a plurality of fan units 5 and a shaft 31 for pivoting fan device 50. (Abstract and [0033] of a machine translation).

Kazuya et al., however, do not disclose or suggest positioning the air blowing means above a front-face surface of a plasma display panel to direct air to the front-face surface in a direction away from parallel relative to the front-face surface, where at least a portion of the air blowing means is disposed within an area defined by the perimeter of the plasma display panel, as required by claim 1 (emphasis added). Instead, Kazuya et al. teach that fan device 50 directs air parallel to the surface of printed boards 15. Even though fan device 50 pivots, air is still directed from below boards 15, toward an edge of each board (Drawing 2), not to a front-face surface. Accordingly, Kazuya et al. cannot teach that a portion of the air blowing means is disposed within an area defined by the perimeter of the plasma display panel, as required by claim 1. Thus, Kazuya et al. do not make up for the deficiencies of Shinji et al. and Oono with respect to claim 1.

Claim 6, although not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to claim 1 which are neither disclosed or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, allowance of claim 6 is respectfully requested for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 2-5 and 7-14 include all of the features of respective claims 1 and 6 from which they depend. Accordingly, claims 2-5 and 7-14 are also patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 15 and 16 have been added. Claims 15 and 16 include the features of previously presented claims 1 and 6. In addition, claims 15 and 16 recite that a vector normal to the front-face surface of the plasma display panel intersects the air blowing

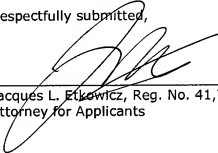
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means. Support for claims 15 and 16 include, for example, Figs. 1 and 2 of the subject specification. As acknowledged by the Examiner during the telephone interview, none of the cited art disclose or suggest that a vector normal to the front-face surface of the plasma display panel intersects the air blowing means. Accordingly, claims 15 and 16 are also patentable over the cited art.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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